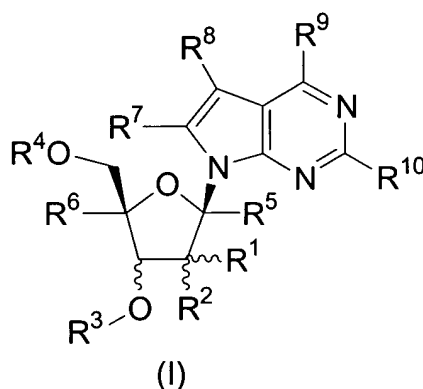


Amendment to the Claims:

Cancel Claims 15-20.

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A compound of structural formula I:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

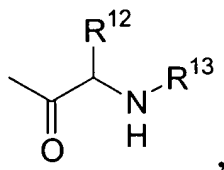
wherein R¹ is C₁₋₄ alkyl, wherein alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with hydroxy, amino, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, C₁₋₄ alkylthio, or one to three fluorine atoms;

R² is amino, fluorine, hydroxy, C₁₋₁₀ alkylcarbonyloxy, mercapto, or C₁₋₄ alkoxy;

R³ and R⁴ are each independently hydrogen, C₁₋₁₆ alkylcarbonyl,

C₂₋₁₈ alkenylcarbonyl, C₁₋₁₀ alkyloxycarbonyl, C₃₋₆ cycloalkylcarbonyl,

C₃₋₆ cycloalkyloxycarbonyl, CH₂O(C=O)C₁₋₄ alkyl, CH(C₁₋₄ alkyl)O(C=O)C₁₋₄ alkyl, or an amino acyl residue of structural formula



with the proviso that at least one of R³ and R⁴ is not hydrogen;

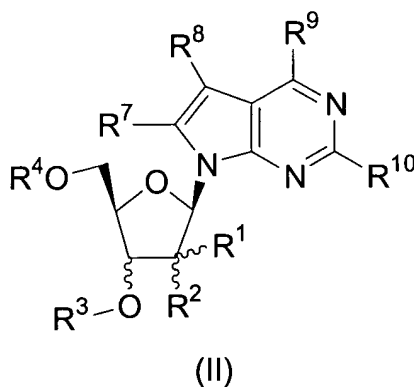
R⁵ and R⁶ are each independently hydrogen, methyl, hydroxymethyl, or fluoromethyl;

R⁷ is hydrogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₂₋₄ alkynyl, halogen, cyano, carboxy, C₁₋₄ alkyloxycarbonyl, azido, amino, C₁₋₄ alkylamino, di(C₁₋₄ alkyl)amino, hydroxy,

C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfonyl, or (C₁₋₄ alkyl)₀₋₂ aminomethyl;

R⁸ is hydrogen, cyano, nitro, C₁₋₃ alkyl, NHCONH₂, CONR¹¹R¹¹, CSNR¹¹R¹¹, COOR¹¹, C(=NH)NH₂, hydroxy, C₁₋₃ alkoxy, amino, C₁₋₄ alkylamino, di(C₁₋₄ alkyl)amino, halogen, (1,3-oxazol-2-yl), (1,3-thiazol-2-yl), or (imidazol-2-yl); wherein alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with one to three groups independently selected from halogen, amino, hydroxy, carboxy, and C₁₋₃ alkoxy; R⁹ is hydrogen, hydroxy, mercapto, halogen, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, C₁₋₄ alkylthio, C₁₋₈ alkylcarbonyloxy, C₃₋₆ cycloalkylcarbonyloxy, C₁₋₈ alkyloxycarbonyloxy, C₃₋₆ cycloalkyloxycarbonyloxy, OCH₂CH₂SC(=O)C₁₋₄ alkyl, OCH₂O(C=O)C₁₋₄ alkyl, OCH(C₁₋₄ alkyl)O(C=O)C₁₋₄ alkyl, amino, C₁₋₄ alkylamino, di(C₁₋₄ alkyl)amino, C₃₋₆ cycloalkylamino, or di(C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl)amino; R¹⁰ is hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, amino, C₁₋₄ alkylamino, di(C₁₋₄ alkyl)amino, C₃₋₆ cycloalkylamino, or di(C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl)amino; each R¹¹ is independently hydrogen or C₁₋₆ alkyl; R¹² is hydrogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, or phenyl C₀₋₂ alkyl; and R¹³ is hydrogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ acyl, benzoyl, C₁₋₄ alkyloxycarbonyl, phenyl C₀₋₂ alkyloxycarbonyl, C₁₋₄ alkylaminocarbonyl, phenyl C₀₋₂ alkylaminocarbonyl, C₁₋₄ alkylsulfonyl, or phenyl C₀₋₂ alkylsulfonyl.

2. (original) The compound of Claim 1 of structural formula II:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

wherein

R¹ is C₁₋₃ alkyl, wherein alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with hydroxy, amino, C₁₋₃ alkoxy, C₁₋₃ alkylthio, or one to three fluorine atoms;

R² is hydroxy, amino, fluoro, or C₁₋₃ alkoxy;

R³ and R⁴ are each independently hydrogen, C₁₋₈ alkylcarbonyl, or C₃₋₆ cycloalkylcarbonyl, with the proviso that at least one of R³ and R⁴ is not hydrogen;

R⁷ is hydrogen, amino, or C₁₋₄ alkylamino;

R⁸ is hydrogen, cyano, methyl, halogen, or CONH₂; and

R⁹ and R¹⁰ are each independently hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, or amino.

3. (original) The compound of Claim 2 wherein

R¹ is methyl, fluoromethyl, hydroxymethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, or aminomethyl;

R² is hydroxy, amino, fluoro, or methoxy;

R³ and R⁴ are each independently hydrogen or C₁₋₈ alkylcarbonyl, with the proviso that at least one of

R³ and R⁴ is not hydrogen;

R⁷ is hydrogen or amino;

R⁸ is hydrogen, cyano, methyl, halogen, or CONH₂; and

R⁹ and R¹⁰ are each independently hydrogen, fluoro, hydroxy, or amino.

4. (original) The compound of Claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

4-amino-7-[2-*C*-methyl-3,5-di-*O*-(1-oxo-octyl)-β-D-ribofuranosyl]-7*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine;

4-amino-7-[2-*C*-methyl-3-*O*-(1-oxo-octyl)-β-D-ribofuranosyl]-7*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine;

4-amino-7-[2-*C*-methyl-5-*O*-(1-oxo-octyl)-β-D-ribofuranosyl]-7*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine; and

4-amino-7-[2-*C*-methyl-2,3,5-tri-*O*-(1-oxo-octyl)-β-D-ribofuranosyl]-7*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

6. (original) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 5 useful for inhibiting RNA-dependent RNA viral polymerase, inhibiting RNA-dependent RNA replication, and/or treating RNA-dependent RNA viral infection.

7. (original) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 6 wherein said RNA-dependent RNA viral polymerase is HCV NS5B polymerase, said RNA-dependent RNA viral replication is HCV replication, and said RNA-dependent RNA viral infection is HCV infection.

8. (original) A method of inhibiting RNA-dependent RNA viral polymerase and/or inhibiting RNA-dependent RNA viral replication comprising administering to a mammal in need of such inhibition an effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1.

9. (original) The method of Claim 8 wherein said RNA-dependent RNA viral polymerase is HCV NS5B polymerase and said RNA-dependent RNA viral replication is HCV viral replication.

10. (original) A method of treating RNA-dependent RNA viral infection comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1.

11. (original) The method of Claim 10 wherein said RNA-dependent RNA viral infection is HCV infection.

12. (original) The method of Claim 11 in combination with a therapeutically effective amount of another agent active against HCV.

13. (original) The method of Claim 12 wherein said agent active against HCV is a 2'-C-Me-ribonucleoside; ribavirin; levovirin; thymosin alpha-1; interferon- β ; an inhibitor of NS3 serine protease; an inhibitor of inosine monophosphate dehydrogenase; interferon- α or pegylated interferon- α , alone or in combination with ribavirin or levovirin.

14. (original) The method of Claim 13 wherein said agent active against HCV is interferon- α or pegylated interferon- α , alone or in combination with ribavirin.

15-20 (cancelled)